

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/782,511

Examiner

Kuen S. Lu

Applicant(s)

GAINER ET AL.

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/20/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-4, 6-8, 10, 12-18 and 20 (renumbered to 1-15).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 2/1/2007.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to Applicant's Amendments filed November 20, 2006.

Applicant's amendments amending claims 1, 4-5, 10 and 16 is acknowledged.

2. After a thorough search and examination of the present application, and in light of prior art made of record; Applicant's Amendments and Remarks filed November 20, 2006; and Examiner's Amendments made February 1, 2007 which amended claims 1, 6-8, 10, 12-14, 16 and 20, canceled claims 2, 5, 9, 11, 19 and 21, Claims 1, 3-4, 6-8, 10, 12-18 and 20 (renumbered to 1 to 15) are allowed.

### ***Examiner's Amendments***

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment, listed below, was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Timothy P. Sullivan (Registration: 47,981) on February 1, 2007. The interview summary is attached.

3.1. Please amend claims 1-2, 5-14, 16 and 19-21 as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended): A method for interacting with collaboration data, comprising:

~~determining when~~ accessing a web page that is associated with a collaboration service ~~is accessed;~~

wherein the web page includes a link that is associated with collaboration data that is stored in a non-local data store; and

wherein multiple users perform operations on the collaboration data;

selecting the link on the web page;

obtaining the collaboration data from the non-local data store in response to the link on the web page being selected;

storing the non-local collaboration data locally;

interacting with the locally stored collaboration data;

wherein the interacting includes performing operations on the locally stored collaboration data; and

modifying a value within the locally stored collaboration data;

determining whether the operations performed locally when modifying the value are valid ~~when a value within the locally stored collaboration data has been modified;~~ and

~~when the operations performed are valid then updating the non-local collaboration data in the non-local data store with the modified value~~ when the operations performed are valid;

sending an error message to the user when the operations performed are invalid;

and

displaying the locally stored collaboration data within a spreadsheet control to a user.

2. (Currently Canceled)

5. (Currently Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 2-1, further comprising flushing the locally stored collaboration data when it is no longer being accessed.

7. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 2-1, wherein storing the non-local collaboration data locally further comprises storing the non-local collaboration data in a cache.

8. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 2-1, further comprising performing a validation check to determine whether a modification to the locally stored collaboration data is invalid.

9. (Currently Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended): A system for interacting with collaboration data, comprising:

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a server including a network communication device coupled to a network and a data store configured to store collaboration data that is associated with a collaboration service;

a client including a display, a network communication device coupled to the network and a local data store, a browser including a web page configured to present at least one link to a user associated with the collaboration data, and an application that is configured to perform actions, including:

accessing the web page that is associated with the collaboration service;

wherein the web page includes the at least one link that is associated with collaboration data that is stored in a non-local data store; and

wherein multiple users perform operations on the collaboration data;

~~receive~~ receiving a selection of a the link on the web page shown in the display that is associated with the collaboration data;

obtaining the collaboration data from the data store;

~~store~~ storing the obtained collaboration data within the local data store;

interacting with the locally stored collaboration data without ~~interaction~~ interacting with the server that is associated with the collaboration service;

wherein the ~~interactions~~ interacting includes ~~modifying a value in performing~~ operations on the locally stored collaboration data; and

modifying a value within the locally stored collaboration data;

determining whether the ~~interactions on the locally stored collaboration data~~ operations performed locally when modifying the value are valid; and

~~when the interactions performed are valid then~~ updating the collaboration data at the data store with the modified value when the operations performed are valid;  
sending an error message to the user when the operations performed are invalid;  
and  
displaying the locally stored collaboration data within a spreadsheet control to a  
user.

11. (Currently Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 44-10, wherein the application is further configured to attempt to update the collaboration data stored at the non-local data store while still allowing the user to interact with the locally stored collaboration data.

13. (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 44-10, wherein the spreadsheet control is configured to provide functionality similar to functionality within a spreadsheet program.

14. (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 44-10, wherein the data store is flushed when the locally stored collaboration data is no longer being accessed.

16. (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium having computer executable instructions stored upon for interacting with collaboration data, the steps performed by executing the instructions comprising:

accessing a web page that is associated with a collaboration service;

wherein the web page includes a link that is associated with collaboration data that is stored in a non-local data store; and

wherein multiple users perform operations on the collaboration data;

receiving a selection of a the link on a the web page that is associated with collaboration data that is stored at a the non-local data store;

obtaining the collaboration data from the non-local data store;

storing the collaboration data locally;

interacting with the locally stored collaboration data without accessing the non-local collaboration data;

wherein the ~~interactions~~ interacting includes modifying a value in the locally stored collaboration data; and

determining whether the operations performed locally when modifying the value are valid; ~~when a value within the locally stored collaboration data has been modified; and when the operations performed are valid then~~ updating the non-local collaboration data in the non-local data store with the modified value when the operations performed are valid;

sending an error message to the user when the operations performed are invalid;

and

displaying the locally stored collaboration data within a spreadsheet control to a user.

19. (Currently Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended): The computer-readable medium of Claim ~~49~~16, wherein interacting with the locally stored collaboration data, further comprises performing at least one of the following operations, including: sorting, filtering, scrolling, pasting, and changing the locally stored collaboration data.

21. (Currently Canceled)

### ***Reasons For Allowance***

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In the Examiner's Office Action for non-Final Rejection of August 18, 2006, 35 U.S.C. 35 U.S.C. § 102, rejections to claims 1-21 was solely based on Timmons: "INFORMATION MESSAGING AND COLLABORATION SYSTEM", U.S. Patent Application 2005/0050021, published March 3, 2005.

In the Remarks filed on November 20, 2006, concerning claim 1, Applicant argued that Timmons reference fails to teach "determining when a web page that is associated with a collaboration service is accessed; wherein the web page includes a link that is associated with collaboration data that is stored in a non-local data store; and wherein multiple users perform operations on the collaboration data". Applicant also argued that



Timmons does not teach multiple users operating on collaboration data that is associated with a collaboration system.

As per claims 10 and 16, Applicant made a similar argument stated that "interact with the locally stored collaboration data without interaction with the server that is associated with the collaboration service; wherein the interactions include modifying a value in the locally stored collaboration data; and determining whether the interactions on the locally stored collaboration data are valid; and when the interactions performed are valid then updating the collaboration data at the data store with the modified value". Further, Timmons does not teach interacting with the "locally stored collaboration data without interaction with the server that is associated with the collaboration service".

After further consideration of Applicant's amendments made to claims 1, 10 and 16, and Examiner's amendment further amending claims 1, 6-8, 10, 12-14, 16 and 20, Examiner is persuaded that Applicant's Remarks as filed are valid with respect to the mostly recently amended claims, which include the combined subject matter of accessing collaboration data, coordinating and validating an update of data at local and remote data stores, and further displaying the locally stored collaboration data within a spreadsheet control to a user, as highlighted below, have overcome the teaching of the cited Timmons reference.

accessing the web page that is associated with the collaboration service;  
wherein the web page includes the link that is associated with  
collaboration data that is stored in a non-local data store; and  
wherein multiple users perform operations on the collaboration data;  
selecting the link on the web page;  
receiving a selection of a link on the web page shown in the display that is  
associated with the collaboration data;  
obtaining the collaboration data from the data store;  
storing the obtained collaboration data within the local data store;  
interacting with the locally stored collaboration data without interaction  
with the server that is associated with the collaboration service;  
wherein the interactions include performing operations on the locally  
stored collaboration data;  
modifying a value within the locally stored collaboration data;  
determining whether operations performed locally when modifying the  
value are valid;

**updating the collaboration data at the data store with the modified value when the operations performed are valid;**

**sending an error message to the user when the operations performed are invalid; and**

**displaying the locally stored collaboration data within a spreadsheet control to a user.**

An updated search for the prior arts on EAST database and on domains (NPL-ACM, Google.com, NPL-IEEE) has been conducted. The prior arts searched and investigated in the database and domains does not fairly teach or suggest the teaching of the newly amended claimed subject matter as described above and reflected by the combined elements in the independent claims 1, 10 and 16.

The dependent claims in the groups (3-4, 6-8), (12-15) and (17-18, 20), depending directly or indirectly upon claims 1, 10 and 16, respectively, are also distinct from the prior art for the same reason.

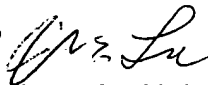
5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Contact Information***

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuen S. Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 am-5:00 pm). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone pre unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for Page 13 published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 703-305-3900 (toll free).

Kuen S. Lu,   
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2167

February 2, 2007

  
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